

U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents: 2013

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A lawful permanent resident (LPR) or “green card” recipient is defined by immigration law as a person who has been granted lawful permanent residence in the United States. Permanent resident status confers certain rights and responsibilities. For example, LPRs may live and work permanently anywhere in the United States, own property, and attend public schools, colleges, and universities. They may also join certain branches of the Armed Forces and apply to become U.S. citizens if they meet certain eligibility requirements. This Office of Immigration Statistics Annual Flow Report presents information obtained from applications for LPR status on the number and characteristics of persons who became LPRs in the United States during 2013.¹

In 2013, a total of 990,553 persons became LPRs of the United States (see Table 1 and Figure 1). The majority of these new LPRs (54 percent) already lived in the United States when they were granted lawful permanent residence. Sixty-six percent of new LPRs were granted permanent resident status based on a family relationship with a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States. The leading countries of birth of new LPRs were Mexico (14 percent), China (7.2 percent), and India (6.9 percent).

THE LAWFUL IMMIGRATION PROCESS

Admission Priorities

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and its amendments are the basis of most immigration laws in effect today. U.S. law gives priority for LPR status to foreign nationals who have a close family relationship with a U.S. citizen or LPR, needed job skills, refugee or asylee status, or who are from countries with relatively low levels of immigration to the United States.

Preference Immigration and Diversity Limits

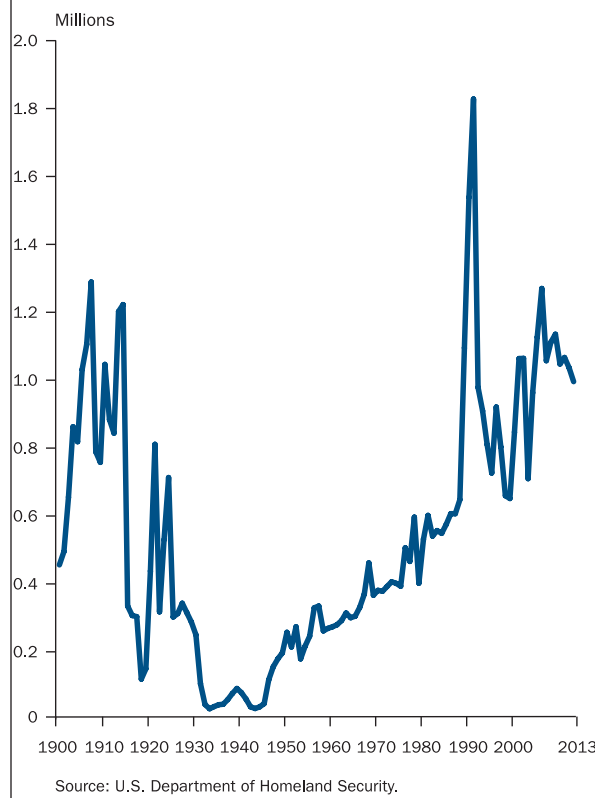
The term *preference* is used in immigration law to designate priority categories for LPR status. As specified by the Immigration Act of 1990, an annual limit of between 416,000 and 675,000 currently exists for the combined total of family-sponsored preference, employment-based preference, and diversity immigrants.

Family-sponsored preferences consist of four categories: unmarried sons and daughters of U.S. citizens and their children; spouses, children, and unmarried sons and daughters of lawful permanent residents and their children; married sons and daughters of U.S. citizens and their spouses and children; and brothers and sisters of

U.S. citizens aged 21 years and older and their spouses and children. The annual limit for family-sponsored preferences ranges from 226,000 to 480,000 (See **APPENDIX** for more details on the limit calculations).

Employment-based preferences consist of five categories of workers (and their spouses and children): priority workers; professionals with advanced degrees or aliens

Figure 1.
Lawful Permanent Resident Flow:
Fiscal Years 1900 to 2013



¹ In this report, years refer to fiscal years (October 1 to September 30).



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of exceptional ability; skilled workers, professionals (without advanced degrees), and needed unskilled workers; certain special immigrants (e.g., ministers, religious workers, and employees of the U.S. government abroad); and employment creation immigrants or “investors.” The employment-based preference limit is equal to 140,000 plus any unused visas in the family-sponsored preferences from the previous year.

In 2013, the limit on preference immigration was 384,466 which included 226,000 in the family-sponsored preferences and 158,466 in the employment-based preferences (see **APPENDIX**). In addition, there are per-country limits equal to 7 percent of the total number of family-sponsored and employment preferences. Dependent areas are limited to 2 percent. In 2013, the per-country limit was 26,913 and the dependent area limit was 7,689.

Diversity immigrants are nationals of countries with low rates of lawful immigration to the United States. The Diversity Immigrant Visa Program is available to nationals of countries with fewer than 50,000 persons granted LPR status during the preceding five years in the employment-based and family-sponsored preferences and immediate relative classes of admission. The annual diversity visa limit has been 50,000 since 1999. The Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS) calculates diversity limits for six broad world regions using a formula based on immigrant admissions during the preceding five years and the population total of the region. The per-country limit of diversity visas was 3,500 in 2013.

Immediate Relatives of U.S. Citizens

Some LPR admission categories are not subject to numeric limits. The largest category numerically is immediate relatives (spouses and children, including orphans adopted abroad, of U.S. citizens and parents of adult U.S. citizens aged 21 and over). Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens typically account for more than 40 percent of the annual LPR flow. New LPRs in the immediate relatives and family-sponsored preference categories of admission are collectively referred to as family-sponsored immigrants.

Refugee and Asylee Adjustments of Status

The number of persons who may be admitted to the United States as refugees each year, as defined by the Refugee Act of 1980, is established by the President in consultation with Congress. The ceiling on refugee admissions was set at 70,000 from 2003 to 2007, 80,000 from 2008 to 2011, and 76,000 for 2012. In 2013, the ceiling was 70,000. There is no numerical limit on the number of persons who can be granted asylum status in a year.

Refugees are required to apply for adjustment to lawful permanent resident status after one year of residence in the United States. Asylees are eligible to apply one year after they are granted asylum. Refugee and asylee adjustments of status are not subject to numerical limits. Until 2005, an annual limit of 10,000 existed on the number of persons authorized to adjust status as asylees. The REAL ID Act removed that cap.

Table 1.

Lawful Permanent Resident Flow: Fiscal Years 2011 to 2013

Category of admission	2013		2012		2011	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	990,553	100.0	1,031,631	100.0	1,062,040	100.0
New arrivals	459,751	46.4	484,072	46.9	481,948	45.4
Adjustments of status . .	530,802	53.6	547,559	53.1	580,092	54.6

Sources: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Computer Linked Application Information System (CLAIMS), Legal Immigrant Data, Fiscal Years 2011 to 2013, and Electronic Immigration System (ELIS), Legal Immigrant Data, Fiscal Year 2013.

Other Admission Categories

The remaining admission categories have accounted for less than 2 percent of the annual LPR flow since 2007. These categories tend to be limited to certain foreign nationals admitted under special legislation.

Paths to LPR Status

There are two paths to LPR status depending on whether the applicant is living in the United States or another country at the time of application. Eligible foreign nationals living abroad apply for an immigrant visa at a consular office of the Department of State. Once issued a visa, a foreign national may seek admission to the United States and become an LPR when admitted at a port of entry. These LPRs are referred to as new arrivals in this report.

Persons who qualify for lawful permanent resident status who are living in the United States, including refugees, asylees, and certain temporary workers, foreign students, family members of U.S. citizens or alien residents, and undocumented immigrants, file an application for adjustment of status to lawful permanent residence with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). At the time they apply for adjustment of status, they may also apply for permission to work. Adjustment of status applicants are granted lawful permanent residence at the time their applications are approved. These LPRs are referred to as adjustments of status in this report.

Eligibility for Naturalization

Most lawful permanent residents who are at least 18 years of age are eligible to apply for citizenship after meeting certain requirements. These requirements generally include 5 years of lawful permanent residence in the United States or 3 years for those married to a United States citizen and successful completion of English language, civics, and history tests. Lawful immigrant children under 18 years of age may automatically acquire citizenship when a parent naturalizes.

DATA

The data presented in this report were obtained from the Computer Linked Application Information Management System (CLAIMS) and the Electronic Immigration System (ELIS) of USCIS. CLAIMS maintains information from applications for lawful permanent resident status: the DS-230 *Application for Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration* or the DS-260 *Electronic Application for Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration* of the Department of State (used by applicants living abroad) and the I-485 *Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status* of USCIS (used by applicants living in the United

Table 2.

Lawful Permanent Resident Flow by Major Category of Admission: Fiscal Years 2011 to 2013

Category of admission	2013		2012		2011	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	990,553	100.0	1,031,631	100.0	1,062,040	100.0
Family-sponsored immigrants	649,763	65.6	680,799	66.0	688,089	64.8
Family-sponsored preferences	210,303	21.2	202,019	19.6	234,931	22.1
Unmarried sons/daughters of U.S. citizens	24,358	2.5	20,660	2.0	27,299	2.6
Spouses and children of alien residents	99,115	10.0	99,709	9.7	108,618	10.2
Married sons/daughters of U.S. citizens	21,294	2.1	21,752	2.1	27,704	2.6
Siblings of U.S. citizens	65,536	6.6	59,898	5.8	71,310	6.7
Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens	439,460	44.4	478,780	46.4	453,158	42.7
Spouses	248,332	25.1	273,429	26.5	258,320	24.3
Parents	119,746	12.1	124,230	12.0	114,527	10.8
Children*	71,382	7.2	81,121	7.9	80,311	7.6
Employment-based preferences	161,110	16.3	143,998	14.0	139,339	13.1
Priority workers	38,978	3.9	39,316	3.8	25,251	2.4
Professionals with advanced degrees	63,026	6.4	50,959	4.9	66,831	6.3
Skilled workers, professionals, unskilled workers	43,632	4.4	39,229	3.8	37,216	3.5
Special immigrants	6,931	0.7	7,866	0.8	6,701	0.6
Investors	8,543	0.9	6,628	0.6	3,340	0.3
Diversity programs	45,618	4.6	40,320	3.9	50,103	4.7
Refugees and Asylees	119,630	12.1	150,614	14.6	168,460	15.9
Refugee adjustments	77,395	7.8	105,528	10.2	113,045	10.6
Asylee adjustments	42,235	4.3	45,086	4.4	55,415	5.2
Parolees	556	0.1	758	0.1	1,147	0.1
Other categories	13,876	1.4	15,142	1.5	14,902	1.4
Children born abroad to alien residents	643	0.1	643	0.1	633	0.1
NACARA [†] Section 202	138	—	183	—	158	—
Cancellation of removal	5,763	0.6	6,818	0.7	7,430	0.7
Subject to annual limit	4,156	0.4	4,015	0.4	4,206	0.4
Not subject to limit (NACARA [†] Section 203)	1,607	0.2	2,803	0.3	3,224	0.3
Haitian Refugee Immigrant Fairness Act	62	—	93	—	154	—
Other	7,270	0.7	7,405	0.7	6,527	0.6

*Includes orphans.

[†]Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act of 1997.

— Figures round to 0.0.

Sources: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Computer Linked Application Information System (CLAIMS), Legal Immigrant Data, Fiscal Years 2011 to 2013, and Electronic Immigration System (ELIS), Legal Immigrant Data, Fiscal Year 2013.

States). ELIS replaced CLAIMS as the system maintaining biographic information for new arrivals admitted during or after April of 2013.

The data fields in CLAIMS and ELIS include class of admission, date the applicant was granted lawful permanent residence, country of birth, country of last residence, date of birth, marital status, geographic residence, occupation, and, for adjustments of status, prior nonimmigrant status and date of most recent entry as a non-immigrant. Data elements were missing more frequently in 2013 than in recent years, largely due to incomplete records in ELIS.

The number and demographic composition of new LPRs are affected by many factors including changes to immigration law and procedure and volatility in application levels. For these reasons, caution should be exercised in drawing conclusions about the propensity to immigrate from the data presented in this report.

TRENDS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS

The number of individuals granted LPR status in 2013 decreased by 4 percent, from 1,031,631 in 2012 to 990,553 in 2013 (see Table 1). The number of employment preference LPRs was higher

in 2013 than in 2012 due largely to a higher limit in 2013. However, the increase was offset by reduced counts of immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and refugee adjustments. There were fewer LPRs admitted from abroad as immediate relatives of U.S. citizens in 2013 because of delays in processing. The decline in refugee adjustments reflects the prior decline in refugee admissions. LPR adjustments of status decreased from 547,559 in 2012 to 530,802 in 2013. New arrival LPRs decreased from 484,072 to 459,751 in 2013. Fifty-four percent of LPRs in 2013 were adjustments of status and 46 percent were new arrivals.

Historical Trends

The annual LPR flow has exhibited a general upward trend since 1945 (see Figure 1). The annual flow increased from approximately 250,000 during the 1950s to more than 1 million between 2005 and 2012. Changes in immigration law associated with this increase included the elimination of country quotas controlling

Eastern Hemisphere immigration, increases in annual limits for hemispheric and preference immigration, and the inclusion of parents of adult U.S. citizens as numerically exempt immediate relatives. The spike in lawful immigration from 1989 to 1991 reflects the legalization of 2.7 million unauthorized immigrants under the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986. Increases in the number of new LPRs in 2005 and 2006 (primarily in the employment preferences) were due largely to the American Competitiveness in the 21st Century Act (AC21), the Real ID Act and backlog reductions at USCIS.²

Category of Admission

Family-sponsored immigrants (immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and family preference classes of admission) represented 66 percent of the total LPR flow in 2013 (see Table 2). Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens were 44 percent of the total LPR flow in 2013. Spouses of U.S. citizens represented 57 percent of immediate relative LPRs, parents of U.S. citizens accounted for 27 percent, and children of U.S. citizens, including adopted orphans, comprised 16 percent.

² See Jefferys, Kelly, 2007. U.S. Legal Permanent Residents: 2006 (http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/IS-4496_LPRFlowReport_04vaccessible.pdf).

The proportion of new LPRs admitted under a family-sponsored preference was 21 percent in 2013. The number of individuals admitted in these preferences in 2013 was below the total family preference annual limit partly because fewer individuals than expected appeared for scheduled interviews at U.S. consular posts during the months of August and September. The second preference (spouses and children of alien residents) accounted for 47 percent of family-sponsored preference LPRs, and the fourth preference (siblings of U.S. citizens) comprised 31 percent.

Immigrants admitted under an employment-based preference constituted 16 percent of the total LPR flow in 2013. The annual limit was higher in 2013 than 2012 because there were more unused family preference visas in 2012 than in 2011. Most of the additional employment preference numbers in 2013 were used in the second preference (professionals with advanced degrees) which represented 39 percent of new employment-based preference LPRs. The third preference (skilled workers, professionals, and unskilled workers) and the first preference (priority workers) accounted for 27 percent and 24 percent of new employment-based LPRs, respectively.

Refugee adjustments decreased from 10 percent of new LPRs in 2012 to 7.8 percent in 2013. The decline in refugee adjustments is consistent with a smaller eligible population, resulting from previous declines in refugee admissions. Asylee adjustments represented 4.3 percent of the total LPR flow in 2013.

Diversity immigrant classes of admission accounted for 4.6 percent of the total LPR flow in 2013.

Region and Country of Birth

The leading regions of birth of new LPRs in 2013 were Asia (40 percent) and North America (32 percent) (see Table 3). Together, Asia and North America accounted for 70 percent or more of the LPR flow each year from 2009 to 2013.

In 2013, 14 percent of all persons granted LPR status were born in Mexico. Other prominent countries of birth were China (7.2 percent), India (6.9 percent), Philippines (5.5 percent), and the Dominican Republic (4.2 percent). These five countries accounted for 37 percent of all new LPRs in 2013.

State and Metropolitan Area of Residence

California was the state of residence of nearly one-fifth (19 percent) of persons granted LPR status in 2013 (see Table 4). Other leading states of residence included New York (13 percent), Florida (10 percent), Texas (9.4 percent), and New Jersey (5.4 percent). Fifty-eight percent of new LPRs intended to reside in these five states in 2013.

Table 3.

Lawful Permanent Resident Flow by Region and Country of Birth: Fiscal Years 2011 to 2013

(Countries ranked by 2013 LPR flow)

Region and country of birth	2013		2012		2011	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
REGION						
Total	990,553	100.0	1,031,631	100.0	1,062,040	100.0
Africa	98,304	9.9	107,241	10.4	100,374	9.5
Asia	400,548	40.4	429,599	41.6	451,593	42.5
Europe	86,556	8.7	81,671	7.9	83,850	7.9
North America	315,660	31.9	327,771	31.8	333,902	31.4
Caribbean	122,406	12.4	127,477	12.4	133,680	12.6
Central America	44,724	4.5	40,675	3.9	43,707	4.1
Other North America	148,530	15.0	159,619	15.5	156,515	14.7
Oceania	5,277	0.5	4,742	0.5	4,980	0.5
South America	80,945	8.2	79,401	7.7	86,096	8.1
Unknown	3,263	0.3	1,206	0.1	1,245	0.1
COUNTRY						
Total	990,553	100.0	1,031,631	100.0	1,062,040	100.0
Mexico	135,028	13.6	146,406	14.2	143,446	13.5
China, People's Republic	71,798	7.2	81,784	7.9	87,016	8.2
India	68,458	6.9	66,434	6.4	69,013	6.5
Philippines	54,446	5.5	57,327	5.6	57,011	5.4
Dominican Republic	41,311	4.2	41,566	4.0	46,109	4.3
Cuba	32,219	3.3	32,820	3.2	36,452	3.4
Vietnam	27,101	2.7	28,304	2.7	34,157	3.2
Korea, South	23,166	2.3	20,846	2.0	22,824	2.1
Colombia	21,131	2.1	20,931	2.0	22,635	2.1
Haiti	20,351	2.1	22,818	2.2	22,111	2.1
Jamaica	19,400	2.0	20,705	2.0	19,662	1.9
El Salvador	18,260	1.8	16,256	1.6	18,667	1.8
Nigeria	13,840	1.4	13,575	1.3	11,824	1.1
Pakistan	13,251	1.3	14,740	1.4	15,546	1.5
Canada	13,181	1.3	12,932	1.3	12,800	1.2
Ethiopia	13,097	1.3	14,544	1.4	13,793	1.3
Nepal	13,046	1.3	11,312	1.1	10,166	1.0
United Kingdom	12,984	1.3	12,014	1.2	11,572	1.1
Iran	12,863	1.3	12,916	1.3	14,822	1.4
Burma	12,565	1.3	17,383	1.7	16,518	1.6
All other countries	353,057	35.6	366,018	35.5	375,896	35.4

Sources: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Computer Linked Application Information System (CLAIMS), Legal Immigrant Data, Fiscal Years 2011 to 2013, and Electronic Immigration System (ELIS), Legal Immigrant Data, Fiscal Year 2013.

Table 4.

Lawful Permanent Resident Flow by State of Residence: Fiscal Years 2011 to 2013

(Ranked by 2013 LPR flow)

State of residence	2013		2012		2011	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	990,553	100.0	1,031,631	100.0	1,062,040	100.0
California	191,806	19.4	196,622	19.1	210,591	19.8
New York	133,601	13.5	149,505	14.5	148,426	14.0
Florida	102,939	10.4	103,047	10.0	109,229	10.3
Texas	92,674	9.4	95,557	9.3	94,481	8.9
New Jersey	53,082	5.4	50,790	4.9	55,547	5.2
Illinois	35,988	3.6	38,373	3.7	38,325	3.6
Massachusetts	29,482	3.0	31,392	3.0	32,236	3.0
Virginia	27,861	2.8	28,227	2.7	27,767	2.6
Maryland	25,361	2.6	24,971	2.4	25,778	2.4
Pennsylvania	24,720	2.5	25,032	2.4	25,397	2.4
Other*	273,039	27.6	288,115	27.9	294,263	27.7

*Includes unknown, U.S. territories and armed forces posts.

Sources: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Computer Linked Application Information System (CLAIMS), Legal Immigrant Data, Fiscal Years 2011 to 2013, and Electronic Immigration System (ELIS), Legal Immigrant Data, Fiscal Year 2013.

Table 5.**Lawful Permanent Resident Flow by Metropolitan Area of Residence: Fiscal Years 2011 to 2013**

(Ranked by 2013 LPR flow)

Metropolitan area of residence	2013		2012		2011	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	990,553	100.0	1,031,631	100.0	1,062,040	100.0
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA . . .	167,393	16.9	179,011	17.4	183,681	17.3
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA	79,893	8.1	81,508	7.9	86,161	8.1
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL	66,636	6.7	66,153	6.4	71,775	6.8
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	39,170	4.0	38,518	3.7	39,365	3.7
Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL-IN-WI	32,819	3.3	34,898	3.4	35,039	3.3
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX	31,953	3.2	31,738	3.1	31,136	2.9
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA	30,600	3.1	29,583	2.9	32,433	3.1
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	26,760	2.7	28,010	2.7	28,090	2.6
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH	23,867	2.4	25,042	2.4	25,909	2.4
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA	20,054	2.0	21,289	2.1	22,035	2.1
Other	471,408	47.6	495,881	48.1	506,416	47.7

Note: Metropolitan areas defined based on Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSAs).

Sources: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Computer Linked Application Information System (CLAIMS), Legal Immigrant Data, Fiscal Years 2011 to 2013, and Electronic Immigration System (ELIS), Legal Immigrant Data, Fiscal Year 2013.

Table 6.**Lawful Permanent Resident Flow by Age: Fiscal Years 2011 to 2013**

Age	2013		2012		2011	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	990,553	100.0	1,031,631	100.0	1,062,040	100.0
Under 5 years	33,750	3.4	37,495	3.6	38,378	3.6
5 to 14 years	103,191	10.4	115,986	11.2	123,123	11.6
15 to 24 years	165,893	16.7	189,698	18.4	199,114	18.7
25 to 34 years	234,690	23.7	249,111	24.1	252,917	23.8
35 to 44 years	186,102	18.8	187,101	18.1	197,377	18.6
45 to 54 years	113,819	11.5	117,397	11.4	120,797	11.4
55 to 64 years	71,724	7.2	79,206	7.7	77,198	7.3
65 years and over	48,875	4.9	55,628	5.4	53,126	5.0
Unknown age	32,509	3.3	9	—	10	—
Median age (years) . . .	32	X	31	X	31	X

X Not applicable.

— Figure rounds to 0.0.

Sources: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Computer Linked Application Information System (CLAIMS), Legal Immigrant Data, Fiscal Years 2011 to 2013, and Electronic Immigration System (ELIS), Legal Immigrant Data, Fiscal Year 2013.

Table 7.**Lawful Permanent Resident Flow by Sex: Fiscal Years 2011 to 2013**

Sex	2013		2012		2011	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	990,553	100.0	1,031,631	100.0	1,062,040	100.0
Male	434,284	43.8	467,638	45.3	480,679	45.3
Female	513,736	51.9	563,958	54.7	581,351	54.7
Unknown	42,533	4.3	35	—	10	—

— Figure rounds to 0.0.

Sources: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Computer Linked Application Information System (CLAIMS), Legal Immigrant Data, Fiscal Years 2011 to 2013, and Electronic Immigration System (ELIS), Legal Immigrant Data, Fiscal Year 2013.

Table 8.**Lawful Permanent Resident Flow by Marital Status: Fiscal Years 2011 to 2013**

Marital status	2013		2012		2011	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	990,553	100.0	1,031,631	100.0	1,062,040	100.0
Single	355,199	35.9	374,559	36.3	405,164	38.1
Married	579,295	58.5	600,961	58.3	599,122	56.4
Other*.	51,671	5.2	51,281	5.0	53,017	5.0
Unknown	4,388	0.4	4,830	0.5	4,737	0.4

*Other includes persons who are widowed, divorced, or separated.

Sources: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Computer Linked Application Information System (CLAIMS), Legal Immigrant Data, Fiscal Years 2011 to 2013, and Electronic Immigration System (ELIS), Legal Immigrant Data, Fiscal Year 2013.

The leading metropolitan area of residence for new LPRs in 2013 was New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA (17 percent) (see Table 5).³ Other prominent metropolitan areas of residence included Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA (8.1 percent), Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL (6.7 percent), Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV (4.0 percent), Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL-IN-WI (3.3 percent), Houston-Sugar Land-

Baytown, TX (3.2 percent), and San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA (3.1 percent). These seven metropolitan areas accounted for the residence of 45 percent of new LPRs in 2013.

Age, Sex, and Marital Status

New LPRs have historically been younger than the native population of the United States. In 2013, the median age for new LPRs was 32 years; in contrast, the median age of the U.S. native population was 35 years (see Table 6).⁴

New LPRs are more likely to be female than the native U.S. population. In 2013, females accounted for 52 percent of persons granted LPR status sex (see Table 7) compared with 51 percent for the U.S. native population. The majority (58 percent) of new LPRs marital status were married compared with 38 percent of the native population (see Table 8).⁵

³The most current CBSA definitions are available from OMB at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/bulletins/2013/b13-01.pdf>.

⁴Calculated from the March 2013 Current Population Survey public use microdata file from the U.S. Census Bureau.

⁵Ibid.

PREFERENCE IMMIGRATION LIMITS⁶

Family-sponsored Preferences Limit

The annual limit is calculated as 480,000 minus the number of aliens who were issued visas or who adjusted to LPR status in the previous fiscal year as 1) immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, 2) children born subsequent to the issuance of a visa to an accompanying parent, and 3) children born abroad to lawful permanent residents on temporary trips abroad minus 4) certain categories of aliens paroled into the United States in the second preceding fiscal year plus 5) unused visas in the employment preferences in the preceding year.

The family-sponsored preference limit may not fall below a minimum of 226,000 in any year. The number of lawful permanent residents who were issued visas or who adjusted status in 2012 under categories 1 to 4 above was 486,238. There were 294 unused numbers in the employment preferences in 2012. The calculated limit for family-sponsored preferences in 2013 was -5,944 (480,000 minus 486,238 plus 294). Since this number was below 226,000, the family-sponsored preferences limit was set at 226,000. The limit for each category is shown above (see Table A1).

⁶The Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State, is responsible for determining these limits. See the monthly Visa Bulletin for more information on the limits (<http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/law-and-policy/bulletin.html>).

Table A1.

Annual Limits for Preference and Diversity Immigrants: Fiscal Year 2013

Preference/description	Limit
Family-sponsored preferences	226,000
First: Unmarried sons and daughters of U.S. citizens and their children	23,400*
Second: Spouses, children, and unmarried sons and daughters of permanent resident aliens. . .	114,200†
Third: Married sons and daughters of U.S. citizens	23,400†
Fourth: Brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens (at least 21 years of age)	65,000†
Employment-based preferences	158,466
First: Priority workers	45,322†
Second: Professionals with advanced degrees or aliens of exceptional ability	45,321†
Third: Skilled workers, professionals, and needed unskilled workers	45,321†
Fourth: Certain special immigrants	11,251
Fifth: Employment creation ("investors")	11,251
Diversity	50,000

*Plus unused family 4th preference visas.

†Visas not used in higher preferences may be used in these categories.

*Plus unused employment 4th and 5th preference visas.

Source: U.S. Department of State.

Employment-based Preference Limit

The annual limit is equal to 140,000 plus unused numbers in the family-sponsored preferences in the previous fiscal year. There were 18,466 unused numbers in the family-sponsored preferences in 2012. The 2013 employment-based preference limit was 158,466. The limit is 28.6 percent of the total for each of the first three employment preferences and 7.1 percent for each of the last two preferences.

Per Country and Dependent Area Limits

A limit of 7 percent of the total family-sponsored and employment-based preferences is set for independent countries, and a limit of 2 percent is set for dependent areas. The 2013 per country limit for independent foreign states was 26,913 (7 percent of 384,466 or 226,000 plus 158,466), and the limit for dependencies was 7,689 (2 percent of 384,466).

Diversity Limits

The annual limit for the diversity program was 50,000 in 2013.